

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
Office of the Chief of Police
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager

THRU: María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager

FROM: William P. McManus, Chief of Police

COPY: Mayor & Council

SUBJECT: Body Worn Camera Procedure



DATE: March 26, 2021

This memorandum addresses the San Antonio Police Department's procedure on the release of Body Worn Camera footage as they relate to critical incidents.

On January 27, 2021, four SAPD officers were involved in a shooting at South Park Mall. The deceased, a 26-year old male, was shot and killed after fleeing from a traffic stop and running through the mall armed with a handgun, which he ultimately raised and pointed at the officers.

After a review of the criteria for release, I will not authorize the publication of the video for the reasons stated below:

The Homicide Commander and a representative from my office met with the decedent's next of kin, his mother, provided her with an opportunity to view the body worn camera video of the incident and explained the Body Worn Camera Release Procedure. Prior to viewing the video, she stated she had already seen bystander footage from the incident repeatedly on TV and social media, causing her great distress. For these reasons, she asked that the Department not release the video.

Based on the circumstances surrounding the incident, I do not believe there is compelling law enforcement or public interest that would cause me to go against the wishes of the decedent's mother. Therefore, the body worn camera video will not be released.